

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 07522 051415Z
ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 07522

EXDIS

FOR EUR ASST. SECY. VEST AND H ASST. SECY. BENNETT

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OREP
SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL VISITS TO SPAIN

REFS: STATE 154095, USNATO 6105, MADRID 6728, STATE
150168, BONN 10845

1. WHILE THE VISIT HERE OF SENATOR BYRD WAS A SUCCESS (SEPTELS), THE FACT THAT IT CAME ON A WEEKEND, AND THAT IT IS THE THIRD STRAIGHT CODEL ASKING FOR HIGHEST LEVEL APPOINTMENTS TO DO SO (CODELS WRIGHT AND CHURCH BEING THE OTHERS) IS CAUSING US A PROBLEM HERE. SOME SPANISH OFFICIALS, EVEN BEFORE SENATOR BYRD HAD LEFT TOWN, PRIVATELY BUT FORCEFULLY EXPRESSED TO US THEIR AWARENESS OF THESE FACTS, AND LEFT NO DOUBT ABOUT THEIR SENSITIVITY REGARDING WHAT THEY CONSIDER THE CLEAR IMPLICATION OF SECOND-CATEGORY STATUS FOR SPAIN. IN THIS CASE THERE WAS THE ADDITIONAL ELEMENT THAT SENATOR BYRD WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO BE HERE JULY 5 AND THAT THE KING HAD ALREADY GIVEN US A FIRM APPOINTMENT ON THAT DATE, THAT WE SUBSEQUENTLY HAD TO CANCEL. THE SPANISH COULD DEDUCE THAT APPOINTMENTS IN BONN AND BRUSSELS WERE CONSIDERED OF MORE IMPORTANCE THAN A ROYAL AUDIENCE HERE. IT CAN
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PAGE 02 MADRID 07522 051415Z

DO US NO GOOD IN ANY COUNTRY TO HAVE THIS SORT OF THING HAPPEN, BUT I THINK IT IS PARTICULARLY REGRETTABLE HERE IN VIEW OF JUAN CARLOS' GOOD WILL TOWARD US AND OF THE CRUCIAL ROLE HE PLAYS IN SPAIN.

2. IN SUM, FROM A POLICY POINT OF VIEW WE CANNOT AFFORD ANOTHER WEEKEND CODEL SEEKING HIGH-LEVEL APPOINTMENTS HERE,

OR ANOTHER CODEL THAT CLEARLY ASKS MADRID TO ADJUST ITS
SCHEDULE TO THE CONVENIENCE OF LEADERS OF OTHER COUNTRIES,
FOR AT LEAST SOME TIME TO COME. EATON

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